

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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VIENNA FOR UNIDO MISSION, ADDIS ABABA FOR WILSON

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO USUN NEW YORK,
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SUBJECT: SIXTY-FIRST ECOSOC-US GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENT

1. TRANSMITTED BELOW IS THE TEXT OF THE US GENERAL DEBATE
STATEMENT MADE ON JUNE 30. SINCE GOVERNOR SCRANTON COULD NOT
BE PRESENT, THE SPEECH WAS READ ON HIS BEHALF BY AMBASSADOR
MYERSON.

2. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO TRANSMIT TEXT TO OTHER POSTS, AS
APPROPRIATE.

STATEMENT BY THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION TO
THE 61ST SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
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JUNE 30, 1976

MR. PRESIDENT,

ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS TO YOU, TO HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY, AND TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE IVORY COAST OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR YOUR COUNTRY'S MOST GENEROUS OFFER TO ACT AS HOST TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, FOR THE MAGNIFICENT FACILITIES WHICH YOU HAVE MADE AVAILABLE, AND FOR THE WONDERFUL HOSPITALITY WHICH HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO US. SUCH A FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE CANNOT FAIL TO FACILITATE OUR DELIBERATIONS.

IT IS FITTING THAT, IN 1976, THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL SHOULD BE HOLDING ITS FIRST MEETING IN AFRICA. WHEN THE UNITED NATIONS WAS CREATED, VIRTUALLY ALL OF AFRICA AND MANY AREAS OF ASIA WERE UNDER COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION. WE HAVE WITNESSED THE PROCESS OF DECOLONIALIZATION OVER THE PAST THIRTY YEARS. THIS HAS NOWHERE BEEN MORE EVIDENT THAN IN AFRICA. THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNITED NATIONS HAS ALMOST TRIPLED IN THIS PROCESS, AND AFRICAN STATES NOW REPRESENT ALMOST A THIRD OF ITS TOTAL MEMBERSHIP. INDEED, I WISH TO WELCOME ON BEHALF OF MY GOVERNMENT THE ENTRY OF THE SEYCHELLES TO THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS THIS VERY WEEK.

BUT THE IMPORTANCE OF AFRICA IS NOT A QUESTION OF NUMBERS. THIS CONTINENT, WITH ALL ITS DIVERSITY, SYMBOLIZES THE CHALLENGES AND THE HOPES OF ALL OF US--TO REMOVE THOSE LAST VESTIGES OF COLONIALISM SO THAT ALL NATIONS AND PEOPLES CAN CHOOSE THEIR OWN DESTINY; TO OVERCOME THE BURDENS OF ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE SO AS TO PERMIT THE FULL DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN AND NATURAL RESOURCES; AND TO FASHION A PATTERN OF COOPERATION WHICH WILL PERMIT PEOPLES TO MAINTAIN THEIR RESPECTIVE TRADITIONS AND PRINCIPLES BUT TO WORK TOGETHER IN PURSUIT OF A COMMON OVER-RIDING GOAL-- BETTER LIFE FOR ALL PEOPLE.

THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF INDEPENDENT AFRICA ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE, THE JUSTICE OF ITS CAUSE, AND THE POLITICAL,

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ECONOMIC, AND CULTURAL TIES THAT LINKS IT TO THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE UNDERSCORED THE NEED FOR US TO MAINTAIN CLOSE TIES WITH AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS. THIS PERCEPTION FOUND EXPRESSION IN SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT TO AFRICA IN APRIL AND MAY OF THIS YEAR. THE VISIT CAME AT A TIME OF GROWING CRISES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE SECRETARY TO ENUNCIATE AT LUSAKA OUR SOUTHERN AFRICAN POLICY. HE MADE CLEAR OUR NATION'S UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT FOR

RACIAL JUSTICE AND SELF-DETERMINATION.

THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES IS BASED ON THE RECOGNITION THAT THE MOVEMENT OF AFRICA TO FULL FREEDOM AND HOAN DIGNITY WILL NOT BE COMPLETE UNTIL RACIAL EQUALITY IS FULLY ESTABLISHED THROUGHOUT THE CONTINENT. THE RECENT TRAGIC AND DEPLORABLE EVENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA UNDERLINE THE URGENCY OF THE SITUATION AND THE TOTAL UNACCEPTABILITY OF THE SYSTEM OF LEGALIZED RACIAL DISCRIMINATION THAT PREVAILS IN SOUTH AFRICA. EQUALLY, WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE PROCESS WILL NOT BE COMPLETE UNTIL MAJORITY RULE IS FULLY ESTABLISHED THROUGHOUT THE AFRICAN CONTINENT. THE UNITED STATES IS PLEDGED TO SUPPORT THESE GOALS BY ALL APPROPRIATE AND PEACEFUL MEANS.

IN HIS LUSAKA STATEMENT, SECRETARY KISSINGER SET FORTH SPECIFIC PROPOSALS AIMED AT HELPING SOLVE THE PRESSING PROBLEMS OF THE REGION. HE INDICATED OUR WILLINGNESS TO PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN CONCERT WITH AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS. IN THIS REGARD, THE ADVICE OF AFRICAN LEADERS HAS BEEN OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE IN DEVELOPING OUR INITIATIVES ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, INCLUDING THE RECENT MEETING OF SECRETARY KISSINGER AND PRIME MINISTER VORSTER. ON THESE AND OTHER MATTERS, WE SHALL CONTINUE CLOSE AND USEFUL CONSULTATION WITH AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS.

DURING HIS AFRICAN TOUR, THE SECRETARY MADE TWO OTHER STATEMENTS TO WHICH WE ATTACH MAJOR IMPORTANCE. IN DAKAR, HE CALLED FOR THE CREATION OF INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM TO UNDERTAKE A SYSTEMATIC AND COMPREHENSIVE ATTACK ON THE DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS OF THE SAHEL REGION. AND IN NAIROBI AT THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT, HE SET FORTH OUR POLICY ON THE MAJOR NORTH-SOUTH DEVELOPMENT ISSUES. I WILL TALK ABOUT THIS IN GREATER DETAIL LATER. BUT I WISH TO EMPHASIZE NOW THE TWO MAJOR THEMES IN OUR UNCLASSIFIED

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APPROACH TO AFRICA--TO ASSIST AFRICAN EFFORTS FOR LIBERATION AND FOR HUMAN AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. I UNDERSCORE THE WORDS "TO ASSIST" BECAUSE THE BASIC STRATEGY AND THE BASIC EFFORT FOR PROGRESS IN AFRICA SHOULD AND MUST REMAIN IN THE HANDS OF AFRICANS THEMSELVES.

JUST BEFORE COMING TO THIS CONFERENCE, I HAD THE OPPORLUN-ITY--AND THE PLEASURE--OF VISITING SEVERAL COUNTRIES IN AFRICA. THIS TRIP WAS UNDERTAKEN AT THE SUGGESTION OF PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER, TO CONTINUE OUR DIALOGUE WITH AFRICAN LEADERS. IT WAS OF A NECESSITY A SERIES OF RAPID VISITS TO ELEVEN COUNTRIES AND CERTAINLY DOES NOT QUALIFY ME AS AN EXPERT, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME OF MY IMPRESSIONS BECAUSE I THINK THAT THEY ARE PERTINENT TO THE DELIBERATIONS OF THIS COUNCIL.

FIRST, I WAS MOST IMPRESSED WITH THE PRIORITIES OF THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS OF THE COUNTRIES VISITED. THEY EMPHASIZED:

--AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AIMED AT ENSURING SUFFICIENT FOOD FOR THEIR PEOPLE;

--HEALTH SERVICES TO REDUCE INFANT MORTALITY, TO PROVIDE BETTER CARE THROUGHOUT THEIR CITIZENS' LEVELS, AND TO INCREASE LIFE EXPECTANCY;

EDUCATION, BOTH GENERAL EDUCATION FOR ALL, AND IN THE TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL FIELDS, A NECESSITIES, COUNTRIES TO REALIZE AND TO MANAGE THEIR POTENTIAL;

--SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT TO PRESERVE BASIC TRADITIONS AND SO THAT ALL CITIZENS MAY BETTER UNDERSTAND AND PARTICIPATE EFFECTIVELY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR COUNTRIES.

THESE ARE PRIORITIES DIRECTED NOT TOWARD THE PRESERVATION OF A SYSTEM OR SIMPLY THE PROMOTION OF AN IDEOLOGY BUT, MUCH MORE IMPORTANTLY, AT IMPROVING AND ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE. AS SUCH IT IS DEVELOPMENT FOR THE HIGHEST PURPOSE--FOR HUMANITY.

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AND WHAT ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES IN AFRICA? THIS IS MY SECOND POINT. ONE VERY CLEAR IMPRESSION IS THAT THE SIMPLE TRANSFER OF MONEY IS NO GUARANTEE OF PURPOSEFUL DEVELOPMENT--IN FACT, THIS COULD LEAD TO AN INTERNATIONAL MISALLOCATION OF RESOURCES. WHAT IS CRITICAL IS AID TO SPECIFIC PROJECTS, ESPECIALLY SELF-HELP PROJECTS, WHICH WILL IN FACT CONTRIBUTE TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE--BOTH DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES--MUST CLARIFY THE CONCEPTUAL CONFUSION WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN EXPLOITATION AND DEVELOPMENT. WHETHER IN AFRICA OR ELSEWHERE, EXPLOITATION IS WRONG. IT SHOULD NOT AND MUST NOT BE THE PATTERN FOR THE FUTURE. THE DEVELOPED AND THE DEVELOPING NATIONS MUST NOW WORK TOGETHER ON A RESOURCE PROGRAM AIMED AT INCREASING THE STANDARD OF LIVING FOR PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED. THIS IS NOT A ONE-WAY STREET. IT IS TO THE MUTUAL ADVANTAGE OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AS WELL AS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, FOR IT PRODUCES BETTER MARKETS FOR PRODUCTS AND A HEALTHIER INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY.

THIRDLY, MR PRESIDENT, TALKS IN THE COUNTRIES I HAVE JUST VISITED UNDERLINED THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY FOR A RAPID SPEED-UP IN THE LIBERATION OF ALL AFRICA--FIRSTLY AND FORE-

MOST BECAUSE OF OUR HUMANITARIAN CONCERN BUT ALSO BECAUSE THE PRESENT SITUATION REPRESENTS A BASIC DETERRENT TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION.

FINALLY, MR. PRESIDENT, I CANNOT SPEAK OF MY VISIT TO AFRICA WITHOUT PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HOSPITALITY OF GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLE WHEREVER WE WENT, TO THE VISION AND COMMITMENT OF THE LEADERS WITH WHOM WE TALKED, AND TO THEIR WILLINGNESS TO SHARE WITH US THEIR THINKING. OUR TALKS WERE CHARACTERIZED BY A COMMON DEDICATION TO PEACE, COOPERATION AND THE BETTERMENT OF MANKIND'S CONDITION. OUR AREAS OF AGREEMENT ARE SUBSTANTIAL AND OUTWEIGH ANY DIFFERENCES OF PERCEPTION OR POLICY. THIS IS A "CONTINENT OF HOPE" WITH GREAT POTENTIAL. A WAY OF LIFE FOR AFRICANS IN FREEDOM AND SELF-FULFILLMENT IS NEAR ON THE HORIZON. IT IS WITHIN MAN'S GRASP.

MR. PRESIDENT, ONE OF THE BASIC PURPOSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AS SET FORTH IN THE CHARTER IS "TO ACHIEVE INTER-
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NATIONAL COOPERATION IN SOLVING INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS OF AN ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, CULTURAL OR HUMANITARIAN CONCERN." OUR RECENT EFFORTS IN THIS RESPECT HAVE FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON THE PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPMENT--THOSE MATTERS EMBRACED BY THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE.

ONE MILESTONE IN THIS DIALOGUE WAS THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. ON THAT OCCASION DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING NATIONS PUT ASIDE CONFRONTATION AND DECLARED THEIR COMMON PURPOSE OF MOVING FORWARD COOPERATIVELY IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN AGREED AGENDA FOR ACTION. TRUE, THERE WAS HARD BARGAINING, BUT IT ACHIEVED CONSENSUS ACCEPTABLE TO ALL. THE PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAMS OUTLINED THERE REMAIN THE CORNERSTONE OF MY GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO ASSIST DEVELOPING NATIONS AND TO STRENGTHEN TIES OF COOPERATION WITH THEM.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSENSUS REACHED AT THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION, SIGNIFICANT AND PRACTICAL STEPS HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN OR ARE UNDERWAY IN VARIOUS UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORUMS, OR THROUGH THE ACTIONS OF INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES. THE ACTIONS COVER THE WIDE RANGE OF PROBLEMS CONFRONTING US--COMPENSATORY FINANCING, FUNDING OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTIONS, COMMODITIES, TRADE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, BILATERAL AID PROGRAMS, AND SO ON. I DO NOT PROPOSE TO CATALOGUE THE SPECIFIC ACTIONS NOW SINCE THE COUNCIL IS TO REVIEW THIS MATTER LATER IN THE PRESENT SESSION. THE POINT THAT I WISH TO EMPHASIZE IS THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS TAKEN ITS COMMITMENTS SERIOUSLY AND IS GENUINELY ATTEMPTING TO TRANSLATE THE AGREED PRINCIPLES INTO

SPECIFIC ACTIONS.

THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION IS ONLY A MILESTONE, NOT THE END OF THE ROAD. MY GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO A CONTINUING PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION SEEKING PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO REAL PROBLEMS. THUS WE ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE PARIS CONFERENCE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION, ONE OF THE PRINCIPLE FORUMS IN WHICH THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IS BEING CARRIED OUT.

UNCTAD IV REPRESENTS ANOTHER MILESTONE. THERE WERE, INDEED, POSITIVE ACHIEVEMENTS AT NAIROBI, ALTHOUGH THE OUTCOME FAILED
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TO SATISFY EVERYONE. FOR EXAMPLE, WE ARE AWARE THAT, EVEN THOUGH DEVELOPED COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES WENT FURTHER THAN EVER BEFORE IN THEIR COMMITMENT TO PROCEED WITH WORK ON MAJOR ASPECTS OF COMMODITY ISSUES--NOT THE LEAST ON BUFFER STOCK FINANCING--SOME OF OUR FRIENDS IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAD HOPED FOR MORE.

THE UNITED STATES FOR ITS PART WAS DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED THAT ITS PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES BANK--PRESENTED AT UNCTAD IV ON BEHALF OF ALL GROUP B COUNTRIES--DID NOT RECEIVE THE CONSIDERATION WE BELIEVE IT DESERVES. WE ARE PURSUING THIS PROPOSAL AS ONE IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF ANY COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO COMMODITIES PROBLEMS. WE TRUST THAT IT WILL RECEIVE SERIOUS AND THOROUGH CONSIDERATION. IT IS IN NO WAY INTEND TO PRECLUDE OTHER APPROACHES NOR TO COMPETE WITH AN OTHER PROPOSAL. THE PURPOSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES BANK IS TO FACILITATE THE FLOW OF ESSENTIAL PRIVATE CAPITAL, MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY INTO THE DEVELOPMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON A BASIS FULLY ACCEPTABLE TO SUCH COUNTRIES--ONE COMPATIBLE WITH THEIR SOVEREIGNTY AND THEIR NATIONAL PLAN. IN OUR VIEW THIS WOULD BE OF PARTICULAR BENEFIT TO COUNTRIES OF AFRICA AND ELSEWHERE. WE HAVE RECENTLY PRESENTED A STATEMENT ON THE PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES BANK TO THE PARIS CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND WILL BE ACTIVELY FOLLOWING UP ON THIS MATTER.

IN SPITE OF THESE DISAPPOINTMENTS AND WITH THE PERSPECTIVE OF A MONTH SINCE NAIROBI, UNCTAD IV SEEMS TO US TO HAVE BEEN MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN MANY AT FIRST IMAGINED. A NUMBER OF RESOLUTIONS WERE APPROVED BY CONSENSU, INCLUDING THOSE ON DEBT, TECHNOLOGY, AND THE LEAST-DEVELOPED, AS WELL AS COMMODITIES. THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARD THE GOALS IT HAS ACCEPTED AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO PROGRAMS IN WHICH IT HAS AGREED TO PARTICIPATE. WE WILL TAKE PART IN THE MEETINGS PREPARATORY TO UNCTAD'S MARCH 1977 NEGOTIATING CON-

REFERENCE ON COMMODITIES. WE ALSO INTEND TO PARTICIPATE FULLY AND ACTIVELY IN THE EXTENSIVE SERIES OF MEETINGS ON THE EIGHTEEN SPECIFIC COMMODITIES SET FORTH IN THE UNCTAD IV COMMODITIES RESOLUTION. WHERE DIFFERENCES PERSIST REGARDING OBJECTIVES OR METHODS, WE SHALL BE PREPARED TO PURSUE A UNCLASSIFIED

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DISCUSSION WITH A VIEW TO RECONCILIATION.

MR. PRESIDENT, THIS MONTH, THERE HAVE BEEN TWO MEETINGS OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES OF CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE FOR RELATIONS BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES -- THE OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING AND THE PUERTO RICO SUMMIT. THESE MEETINGS EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR CLOSER COORDINATION BETWEEN PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES. WORKING TOGETHER, THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES SEEK TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINED ECONOMIC GROWTH WHICH IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE DEMAND FOR THE MINERAL, AGRICULTURAL AND MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THEY CAN SEEK TO MINIMIZE INFLATION AND ITS IMPACT, FOR EXAMPLE ONE THE COST OF DEVELOPING COUNTRY IMPORTS. AND THEY CAN BETTER POSITION THEMSELVES BOTH TO INITIATE PROPOSALS AND TO RESPOND CONSTRUCTIVELY TO PROPOSALS BY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

MR. PRESIDENT, THE 61ST SESSION OF ECOSOC CAN MARK ANOTHER MILESTONE ON THE ROAD TO ENHANCED COOPERATION AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND AMONG DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES GENERALLY. THE COUNCIL WILL HAVE TO ADDRESS A BROAD AGENDA -- ONE WHICH WILL GIVE IT FULL OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THE RESPONSIBILITIES VESTED IN IT BY THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER. THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION STANDS READY TO PLAY ITS FULL PART.

ONE OF THE SUBJECTS WE WILL BE CONSIDERING IS THE COMPLEX OF ISSUES RELATED TO TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS. IN THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS IN LIMA LAST MARCH, THE UNITED STATES PROPOSED A SPECIAL EFFORT IN THE FIELD OF CORRUPT PRACTICES AND PAYMENTS -- A PROBLEM, I SHOULD ADD, THAT GOES BEYOND THE QUESTION OF TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS PER SE. MY DELEGATION, WITH THE SUPPORT OF OTHERS, WILL BE SUBMITTING A DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THIS SUBJECT AT THE CURRENT SESSION OF ECOSOC. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT IT WILL RECEIVE FULL AND SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION SO THAT AN EXPERT GROUP MAY BE ESTABLISHED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO TAKE UP THIS MATTER.

ONE OF THE SIGNIFICANT RESULTS OF THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION WAS THE DECISION TO CREATE THE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM. THAT BODY IS NOW PURSUING ITS UNCLASSIFIED

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DELIBERATIONS. AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE INVOLVES EFFORTS TO REVITALIZE THE ECOSOC SO THAT IT MAY CARRY OUT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES MORE EFFECTIVELY. WE HAVE MADE SOME SUGGESTIONS IN THIS REGARD, AND WE SHALL HAVE ADDITIONAL IDEAS TO PRESENT. MEANWHILE, WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE HIGH QUALITY OF THE COUNCIL'S WORK UNDER THE DISTINGUISHED PRESIDENCY OF THE IVORY COAST WILL SERVE TO REINFORCE OUR DETERMINATION IN THIS REGARD.

LOOKING AHEAD IN THE NEXT DECADE, WE FACE GREAT CHALLENGES. HOW CAN WE INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION IN POOR COUNTRIES WITH FOOD DEFICITS? WHEN WILL THE WORK FINALLY HAVE SOME ASSURANCE THAT ECONOMIC GAINS WILL NOT EVENTUALLY BE WIPED OUT BY POPULATION INCREASES? HOW CAN WE INVOLVE THE RURAL POOR, THE UNEMPLOYED, THE UNDEREMPLOYED, AND WOMEN IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT? HOW CAN THE POORER COUNTRIES DEVELOP A SOUND ECONOMIC BASE FOR CONTINUING ADVANCEMENT AND EVENTUAL SELF-RELIANCE IN AN INTERDEPENDENT WORLD?

IN SEEKING SOLUTIONS FOR THESE PROBLEMS, WE IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE REDOUBLED OUR EFFORTS OVER THE PAST YEAR; WE HAVE MODIFIED SOME POSITIONS AND WE HAVE MADE MANY NEW PROPOSALS. WE TAKE PRIDE IN WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED, BUT WE WILL NOT REST ON THESE ACHIEVEMENTS.

MR PRESIDENT, IN FOUR DAYS, THE UNITED STATES WILL BE CELEBRATING ITS BICENTENNIAL. THE MEN WHO WROTE THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE ASSUMED THAT THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF A PROCESS OF LIBERATION AND THAT THE IDEALS SET FORTH WERE APPLICABLE TO MANKIND IN GENERAL. THUS, FROM ITS INCEPTION THE UNITED STATES HAS FAVORED EFFORTS OF OTHERS TO ASSURE BOTH THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND THEIR HUMAN DIGNITY. AS WE ENTER OUR THIRD CENTURY, WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE VIEW THAT INDEPENDENCE, INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES, AND HUMAN DIGNITY SHOULD AND MUST FLOURISH EVERYWHERE.

IN THIS SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, THEREFORE, LET US REMEMBER THAT OUR INTENTIONS TRANSCEND THE SPECIFIC ISSUES, IMPORTANT AS EACH ONE OF THEM IS. BEYOND THEM LIES A HIGHER REALITY:

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--A WORLD ECONOMIC SYSTEM WITH SHARED INTERESTS FOR ALL ITS MEMBERS;

--A WORLD SYSTEM CHARACTERIZED BY FAIRNESS FOR THE
WEAK AS WELL AS THE STRONG, BY COMPASSION FOR THE
POOR, BY THE ERADICATION OF HUNGER, AND BY SOCIAL
AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS FOR ALL.

THESE GOALS CAN BE ACHIEVED IF NATIONS RECOGNIZE AND ACCEPT
THAT EACH BEARS A RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD THE OTHERS, AND
TOWARD MANKIND. SMITH UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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